

## MATT POULTER PLUMBING & HEATING

All plumbing and heating work undertaken  
 Complete bathroom refurbishment  
 Gas boiler Installation and service  
 Air source heat pumps—MCS Registered and Eligible for RHI Payments



Checkatrade

07974212232 / mppoulter@gmail.com

www.poulterplumbing.co.uk



# HOUSE NEWS

April 2024

[www.felmersham.net](http://www.felmersham.net)



## Barnes Tree Services

ALL TYPES OF WORK UNDERTAKEN

*Trees reduced or removed ~ all waste chipped on site and taken away*

*NPTC qualified ~ Fully insured*

*Traditional family business ~ Woodland management since 1980*

Ash logs always available for delivery

Telephone: Roger Barnes for a free quote on 01933 356205

### REGULAR VILLAGE ACTIVITIES

1st Wednesday in each month	7 pm Wednesday Sisters Supper Club. For more details please phone Rosie on 781046.	The Sun
Every Tuesday	7.30pm Table Tennis Club	Village Hall
2nd Tuesday every other month	7.30pm Parish Council Meetings (Jan/Mar/May/July/Sept/Nov)	Committee Room

### CHURCH OFFICERS

Rector	Revd Paolo Di Leo	(782000, 07968 606 377)
Curate	Revd Dr Diana Stretton	(07807 341 638)
Lay Leader of Worship	Rosemary Drewery	(07792 926 004)
Churchwarden	Sue Whitehouse	(781300)
Treasurer	Stephen Hill	(781064)

Editor : Jane Carwithen (782185) or email [janeacarwithen@gmail.com](mailto:janeacarwithen@gmail.com)  
 Items to be with the Editor for the next edition by NOON on 25<sup>th</sup> of the month

### A.S.A.P

Revd Paolo Di Leo



During my time as an executive of large global enterprises the abbreviation A.S.A.P, particularly when coming from my boss, would always conjure up in my mind the picture of a ‘herd of charging elephants!!!! ‘ A.S.A.P never really meant ‘As Soon As Possible’. In reality, it meant ‘Get It to Me Now or Else!!!’ adding to the stress and anxiety of the job.<sup>1</sup>

Our lives are full of unreasonable demands and unwelcome events that may cause us anxiety, stress and feelings of helplessness, coming towards us like a ‘herd of charging elephants.’ Over the years I have reflected on my times of stress and anxiety when confronted with imperative demands, imposed decisions and authoritative directives, let alone unwelcome life changing events We will all have faced such moments in our lives. These moments make us feel we have no choice or alternative to the situation that confronts us.

Upon reflection and with experience I have discovered that A.S.A.P could stand for something else. In fact, it should stand for two things as guiding principles that could replace the image of a ‘herd of charging elephants’ with an image of hope and a different future.

Firstly A.S.A.P can stand for ‘Always See Another Possibility’. The herd of charging elephants isn’t the only possibility. This may begin by standing back from the situation and remembering how you have overcome other stressful situations in the past, infusing you with hope and confidence. Also sharing the matter with family, a friend, a counsellor, spiritual director or priest may help with reflecting on what is happening and reviewing hopeful and positive possibilities.

(Ctd. on page 3)

## The United Benefice of Sharnbrook, Felmersham and Knotting with Souldrop

St Peter's Church, Sharnbrook MK44 1HU, St Mary's Church, Felmersham MK43 7JP All Saints Church, Souldrop MK44 1EX



[www.sharnbrookcofechurches.org](http://www.sharnbrookcofechurches.org)



**Welcome**

### FORTHCOMING CHURCH SERVICES APRIL

<b>Wed 3 April</b>	<b>9.30am</b>	<b>Holy Communion at St Mary's</b>
<b>Sun 7 April</b>	<b>9.00am</b>	<b>Said Holy Communion at St Mary's</b>
<b>Easter 2</b>	<b>10.30am</b>	<b>Choral Holy Communion at St Peter's (ZOOM'd)</b>
	<b>3.00pm</b>	<b>Faith Explorers at St Mary's</b>
<b>Wed 10 April</b>	<b>9.30am</b>	<b>Holy Communion at St Peter's</b>
<b>Sun 14 April</b>	<b>9.00am</b>	<b>Said Holy Communion at St Peter's</b>
<b>Easter 3</b>	<b>10.30am</b>	<b>Choral Holy Communion at St Mary's (ZOOM'd)</b>
	<b>10.30am</b>	<b>Holy Communion at All Saints, Souldrop</b>
	<b>3.00pm</b>	<b>Faith Explorers at St Mary's</b>
	<b>6.00pm</b>	<b>Evensong at St Peter's</b>
<b>Wed 17 April</b>	<b>9.30am</b>	<b>Holy Communion at St Mary's</b>
<b>Sun 21 April</b>	<b>9.00am</b>	<b>Said Holy Communion at St Mary's</b>
<b>Easter 4</b>	<b>10.30am</b>	<b>Choral Holy Communion at St Peter's (ZOOM'd)</b>
	<b>3.00pm</b>	<b>Faith Explorers at All Saints, Souldrop</b>
<b>Wed 24 April</b>	<b>9.30am</b>	<b>Holy Communion at St Peter's</b>
<b>Sun 28 April</b>	<b>9.00am</b>	<b>Said Holy Communion at St Peter's</b>
<b>Easter 5</b>	<b>10.30am</b>	<b>Choral Holy Communion at St Mary's (ZOOM'd)</b>
	<b>6.00pm</b>	<b>Evensong at St Peter's</b>
<i>Every Thursday</i>	<i>9.30 am</i>	<i>Morning Prayer on Zoom</i>



We believe good value and excellent service go hand in hand.

NEVILLE. Because there is a difference.

#### BEDFORD

48 Roff Avenue MK41 7TE

t: 01234 359529

e: [bedford@nevillefuneralservice.com](mailto:bedford@nevillefuneralservice.com)

[www.nevillefuneralservice.com](http://www.nevillefuneralservice.com)



OFTEC Registered Engineers

Fully Insured

'Local Family Run Business'



**mark1heating**

**OIL FIRED BOILER SERVICES**

**Tel: 01234 328629**

**Mob: 07769 324331**

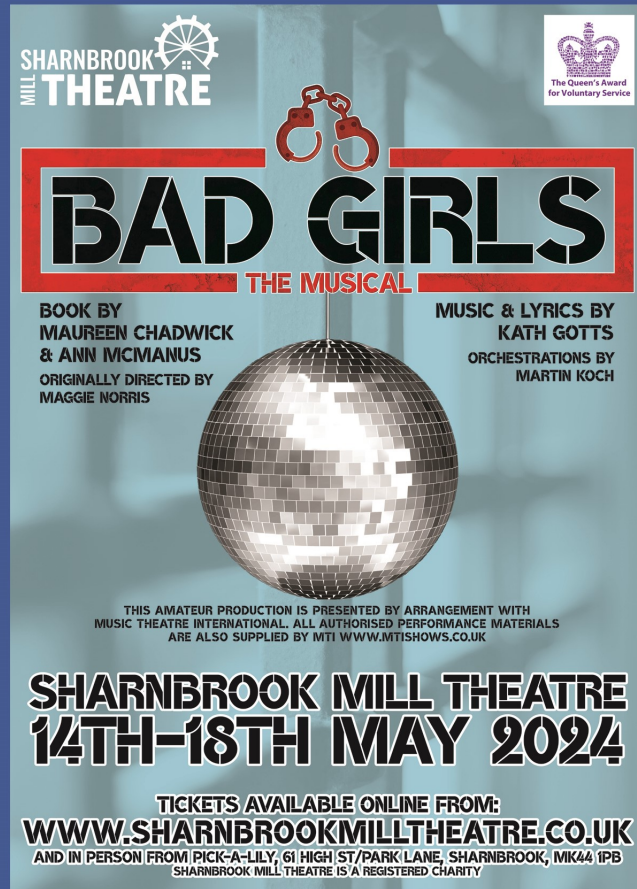
**info@mark1heating.co.uk**

**INSTALL - SERVICE - REPAIR  
MAINTAIN - SUPPORT**

### VILLAGE TRADES AND SERVICES

Babysitting (Felmersham)	Laura Hewlett 782063	Electrical Services	Martin Blizard 782527
Babysitting	Jasmine Bunker 07368 466 948	Painting & Decorating	Eric Barford 781719
Babysitting	Joely Chambers 07803 157963	Vinyl and Carpet Fitter 8 years experience	Danny O'Grady 07720 779275
Babysitting	Lauren Smith 07392 188836	Animal Care and Dog Walking	Annette Court- ney 783164
Childminding	Maxine Boswell 781940 07985 228 116	Dog Walking, feed- ing/ boarding	Ch. Tweed- dale 781279
<b>Community Care</b>	<b>07786 344 176</b>		

**Coming soon to your  
local, award-winning theatre!**



**SHARNBROOK  
MILL THEATRE**

**THE QUEEN'S AWARD  
FOR VOLUNTARY SERVICE**

**BAD GIRLS**  
THE MUSICAL

BOOK BY  
**MAUREEN CHADWICK  
& ANN MCMANUS**  
ORIGINALLY DIRECTED BY  
MAGGIE NORRIS

MUSIC & LYRICS BY  
**KATH GOTTS**  
ORCHESTRATIONS BY  
MARTIN KOCH

THIS AMATEUR PRODUCTION IS PRESENTED BY ARRANGEMENT WITH  
MUSIC THEATRE INTERNATIONAL. ALL AUTHORISED PERFORMANCE MATERIALS  
ARE ALSO SUPPLIED BY MTI WWW.MTISHOWS.CO.UK

**SHARNBROOK MILL THEATRE  
14TH-18TH MAY 2024**

TICKETS AVAILABLE ONLINE FROM:  
**WWW.SHARNBROOKMILLTHEATRE.CO.UK**  
AND IN PERSON FROM PICK-A-LILY, 61 HIGH ST/PARK LANE, SHARNBROOK, MK44 1PB  
SHARNBROOK MILL THEATRE IS A REGISTERED CHARITY

**Tickets and more information  
www.sharnbrookmilltheatre.co.uk**

(Ctd from page 1) Research commissioned by Age UK proves the old adage 'a problem shared is a problem halved'. It showed that when people share worries with others, it can really improve their situation: Around 3 in 10 adults share their worries (29%). Of these, over a third (36%) feel brighter as a result. Above quarter (26%) feel relief when they have confided in someone about a problem. 8% feel that the problem has gone away once shared.<sup>2</sup>

A.S.A.P can also mean 'Always Say A Prayer'. It's a truism to note that we often only turn to God in prayer when we face a time of trouble in which we feel we have no other option but to pray. If so, then you are in good company and very holy company too! Just one example is when King David arrives at a point in life where all he has left is prayer. He prays 'Hear my prayer, O Lord; let my cry come to you. Do not hide your face from me on the day of my distress. Incline your ear to me; answer me speedily on the day when I call.'<sup>3</sup>

Prayer is a time that allows us to approach God wherever we are, to be honest with God and reflect on the possibilities through faith that can help us overcome and heal us from our troubles, stresses and anxieties. Prayer can help us reflect and see other possibilities other than a 'herd of charging elephants.'

Prayer offers the presence and peace of God that can be experienced, even though at times we might not understand it.

'Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus'.<sup>4</sup>

<sup>1</sup> <https://stock.adobe.com/uk/search?k=elephants+charging>

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.ageuk.org.uk/latest-news/archive/share-problems-to-lighten-your-load/#:~:text=And%20the%20old%20adage%20of,feel%20brighter%20as%20a%20result>

<sup>3</sup> Psalm 102:1-2

<sup>4</sup> Philippians 4:6-7

**COFFEE MORNING: SATURDAY 6<sup>th</sup> APRIL**

**Jane Wells**

The coffee morning for April to raise funds for the Restoration Fund will be held in

**St Mary's Church, Felmersham at 10.30am on Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> April.**

There will be a small raffle, plenty of chatter, coffee, tea and biscuits.

**Everyone welcome.**

**Online Link for Church Services**

**<https://zoom.us/j/763110804> The Password is: 079014**



# CM HEATING MAINTENANCE LTD

*Domestic Oil Boiler Service*

**SERVICE  
BREAKDOWN  
OIL TANK INSTALLATION**  
*The Oil Boiler Specialists*

**J.C Keep Tel: 01234 824400**

**Email: [sales@cm-heating.co.uk](mailto:sales@cm-heating.co.uk) [www.cm-heating.co.uk](http://www.cm-heating.co.uk)**

Having a holiday in the Isle of Wight?

Do please visit us at  
*Carisbrooke Priory*

*An Open Door to the peace of God*



At the heart of the Island, we are an ecumenical, Christian organisation, offering a Tea Room, Shop, Gardens, Chapel and Quiet Rooms for personal reflection. A service of worship is held on the first Thursday of the month.

39 Whitcombe Road, Newport, PO30 1YS  
Tel: 01983 523354

E-mail: [admin@carisbrookepriory.org.uk](mailto:admin@carisbrookepriory.org.uk)  
[www.carisbrookepriory.org.uk](http://www.carisbrookepriory.org.uk)

**Stevington**

**Cinema Screenings**

**Tues 9 April** MacMillan Triple-  
Royal Ballet

**Thurs 18 April** Poor Things –  
Film

**Tues 23 April** NYE—NT

**Wed 24 April** Swan Lake

Please check  
[www.stevingtoncinemaclub.co.uk](http://www.stevingtoncinemaclub.co.uk)

for details of  
screening times and tickets.

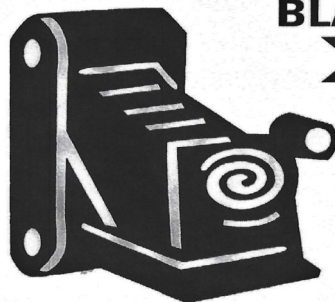
*Pinchmill*  
INTERIORS

**Hand Sewn Curtains, Blinds and Accessories**

**Made to Measure Service, finished to your exact requirements**

Contact Sarah Bunker on 01234 783220 or 07946 620821

Website: [www.pinchmill-interiors.co.uk](http://www.pinchmill-interiors.co.uk) Email: [sarah@pinchmill-interiors.co.uk](mailto:sarah@pinchmill-interiors.co.uk)



In business since 1992

**BLACK AND WHITE REVIVAL**

**Helen Dawkins LRPS**

- Traditional Photograph Restoration & Conservation
- Archival Storage: Antique Frames
- Darkroom printing
- Sepia Toning: Hand Colouring

**01234 782265**

[www.blackandwhiterevival.co.uk](http://www.blackandwhiterevival.co.uk)

**CARERS TOGETHER**

Come and join us for tea, cake,  
and a chat

**Our meeting will be at 2.30pm  
on Monday**

**APRIL 15<sup>th</sup>**

Meet with other Carers knowing the person you care for is enjoying activities in a safe and friendly environment.

The Methodist Church, Park Lane,  
Sharnbrook

For more information contact the group's  
Co-ordinator

Linda Hoar 07791214148

[lindahoar@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:lindahoar@hotmail.co.uk)

**RP TESTA**

PLUMBING & HEATING SERVICES LIMITED

A professional service with over  
30 years experience for  
all general plumbing and heating requirements  
and full design and installation for:

- ◆ CENTRAL HEATING inc. LPG
- ◆ BATHROOMS: inc. tiling etc.
- ◆ UNDERFLOOR HEATING



A LOCAL AND RELIABLE SERVICE

**01234 781827**

[www.testaplumbingandheating.co.uk](http://www.testaplumbingandheating.co.uk)

**A Brief History of Radwell Bridge** (Ctd) The flood bridge, for foot traffic, is about a quarter of a mile in length. It was originally made of wood, and, in the flood of 1928, great parts of it were carried away. Like the flood bridge on the road from Felmersham to Sharnbrook, it was reconstructed in reinforced concrete, with iron rails. As C J Maltby said "It is to be hoped that both will be able to withstand any flood that is likely to test them." And to date this has proved to be so.

Ref: Felmersham Church and Parish by C J Maltby [1931]

Bridges of Bedfordshire by Angela Simeo & Peter M<sup>c</sup>Keague [1997]



## Wildlife Trust for Beds, Cambs & Northants

The Wildlife Trust for Beds, Cambs and Northants 2024 photography competition is now open for submissions up to the closing date of 2 May.

It is sponsored this year for the

first time by OM Digital Solutions, in association with Campkins Cameras.

OM Digital Solutions will be providing the overall winner's prize of an OM5 + 12-40mm lens kit, worth £1,799, as well as offering support in judging the competition and producing the 2025 calendar, which will include the three winning images, plus 21 other winning photographs. The competition is also supported by Opticron, who continue to provide additional prizes for category winners.

The competition this year has an overall theme of 'nature all around' and again has three categories, the winners of which will receive prizes from Opticron: Flora and Fauna, Youth (under 18s) and People and Nature. An overall winner will be chosen from the category winners to receive the main prize. The competition is free to enter.

For further information see [www.wildlifebcn.org/photcomp](http://www.wildlifebcn.org/photcomp).

## National Hedgerow Week, 6-12 May, 2024

### Hedges are the UK's largest priority habitat

Hedgerows – whether we're talking the leafy border around your garden or the iconic patchwork across the British countryside – they have the remarkable potential to help us tackle climate change and biodiversity loss.

Yet we've lost 50% of our hedgerows since World War II – and around 60% of the hedgerows we still have aren't in good condition.

<https://hedgelink.org.uk/campaign/national-hedgerow-week/>

## LUNCH TOGETHER

Maggie Spoor, Jane Wells, Jane Rhodes

Thank you, once again, to Pete and his team at The Sun for providing us with delicious soup and sandwiches on 15<sup>th</sup> March.

Normally we will be having our lunch on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Friday in the month and the next one will be on **Friday, 12<sup>th</sup> April at 12.30. Please ring me on 782138 by Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup>** so that we can give Pete numbers in good time. The cost is £7 and extra if you would like tea!

## TEAS IN THE CHURCH: WEDNESDAY 17<sup>TH</sup> APRIL

Jane Wells

Teas in the Church start again on Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> April from 2.30pm and will continue through the summer months on the **third Wednesday in the month until September.**

Do bring your friends, family and neighbours for a cuppa, slice of cake and chatter. Looking forward to seeing you.

## A Brief History of Radwell Bridge

It was in 2018 that the 200<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the continuous use of Felmersham Bridge was celebrated, this being the northerly crossing out of the parish of the River Great Ouse.

Radwell Bridge however is 52 years older, but a celebration of its 250<sup>th</sup> anniversary in 2016 was missed. This bridge serves the very important route out of the parish to the east. It unfortunately is the first to flood after heavy rain, causing frustration to many residents who are then forced on detours either to the north or south.

Radwell Bridge replaced a ford and was built in 1766 at a cost of £292. It significantly upgraded the road to Milton Ernest and thus to the Bedford - Rushden turnpike which was created in 1727. No original documentation survives but it was probably financed by the parish. It was originally of five arches rounded in shape, to which one was later added; it is constructed of limestone rubble.

Rev Thomas Orlebar Marsh, vicar of Stevington for 55 years who lived in Felmersham, wrote that the lime that was used in building the bridge was made at Pavenham. He also recorded the effects of several floods in the early 19<sup>th</sup> Century. In 1821, a man named Allen rowed his boat over the top of the bridge. The floods of February 1831 caused more damage, and extensive rebuilding costing £139 was carried out. More work was done in 1858-59.

(Ctd page 8)





**PARISH COUNCIL MEETING: 12 MARCH 2024  
EDITED HIGHLIGHTS**

**Bedford Borough Council (BBC) Budget 2024/2025:**

BBC determined its budget for 2024/2025 at its meeting on 7 February 2024. This sets out how the Borough Council will deliver vital day-to-day frontline services for local residents. The approved budget results in an increase in core Council Tax of 2.99% supplemented by a 2% Adult Social Care Precept, totalling 4.99%, resulting in an average Band D Council Tax of £1,824.64. In addition, the Precepts of Parish Councils (£34.81), the Bedfordshire Police Authority (£265.09) and Bedfordshire Fire & Rescue Authority (£112.72) give a total Band D Council Tax of £2,237.26.

**Town Centre Regeneration:**

The Council is now the preferred bidder to purchase the former Debenhams building; this is a strategic move as part of a wider vision to revitalise the High Street and to regenerate Bedford town centre. The Council has now agreed a Vision for the revitalisation of town centres of Bedford and Kempston and has allocated funding to enable a number of projects to be developed to improve these areas.

**Universal Studios:**

Following active inward investment and positive discussions, mega US media corporation, Universal Studios, has officially confirmed plans to explore the feasibility of establishing a new Theme Park and Resort in the Kempston Hardwick area of the Borough. The potential economic impact for the area is substantial!

**Infrastructure Improvements:**

Work has finally commenced at the Black Cat roundabout, a major National Highways roadwork project that will deliver a new 10-mile dual carriageway on the A428 highway between the Black Cat roundabout (on the A1 Motorway) and Caxton Gibbet roundabout. This will enable better links Bedford with Milton Keynes and Cambridge and the road is expected to be open in 2027.

**Speed Monitor**

The Felmersham Speed Monitor has been removed for repair to the radar system. It is hoped it will be returned shortly.



# Ouse Valley Mothers' Union



**G.P.  
Dr Victoria Barber  
will talk about  
'Ovarian Cancer'**

**Thursday 11 April, 2.30pm, St Peter's Room**

**New members and visitors welcome**

(suggested donation £4 for MU charities)

Details: contact **Jackie Biggs** (782517) or **Hazel Scott** (781559)

We welcome anyone who would like to know about Mothers' Union

Charity No.249814

Make an entrance with a pair of Oakgate Joinery gates

Call us today for a free no obligation quote 0845 519 4049  
info@oakgatejoinery.co.uk www.oakgate-joinery.co.uk